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THE Tarheel Washoff



SOIL EROSION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NORTH CAROLINA AREA

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Large Landowner Praises Service

"EFFECTS OF THE WORK that the Soil Erosion Service is doing in the Deep River watershed will be felt 40 or 50 years from now," declares H. S. Ragan, extensive landowner of Guilford and Randolph counties and county commissioner of Randolph county.

"THE IMMEDIATE RESULT of the work will be to help bring prosperity back to the farmers of this area. The Deep River valley will be restored to the fertile condition it was in many years ago.

"I HAVE BUILT quite a few terraces myself," continues Mr. Ragan. "My experience is that an improperly or badly built terrace is worse than no terrace at all. Few farmers can build terraces as well as the experienced engineers of the Soil Erosion Service, and any man who doesn't take advantage of the work offered him by the government is losing an excellent opportunity to improve his land permanently."

SAVE THE TARHEEL WASHOFF

EACH ISSUE OF THE TARHEEL WASHOFF will contain hints and information which we shall try to make of value to farmers of the erosion-control area. In these pages we shall strive each month to let you know what progress the Soil Erosion Service is making in its program in the Deep River valley. Save your copies for future reference.



THE PETITION OF 30-odd Caraway Creek farmers for an extension of the Soil Erosion Service project to that area should gain impetus from this story as brought to us by a member of the staff who was an eye-witness to the incident: "So-and-so's cow fell into a gully back of the barn and broke her neck. A nice young Holstien cow, too, one which the farmer had an opportunity to sell off a few days before at a good price."

"THE SOIL is the product of all our history. It is the meeting place of the animate and the inanimate. It is the magic medium by which the animate may continue on earth."

"ALL WASHED UP"

DID YOU SEE the feature and well-illustrated article, ALL WASHED UP, in Collier's weekly magazine of September 29? If not, make sure to read it.

THE STARK TRUTH has already dawned (or is beginning to dawn) on observing and thinking men and women -- aggravated rainwash is robbing this country of its soil, the people's first and most dependable asset, to say nothing of the resultant increased hazard of droughts and floods.

New Erosion Project for North Carolina

EXTENSION OF EROSION CONTROL work into the headwaters of Reedy Fork Creek in Guilford County and a small section of Forsyth has been approved by the Department of the Interior.

AN APPROPRIATION of \$150,000 was made for the work in this section, which consists of 44,000 acres adjoining the Deep River valley area.

THE NEW PROJECT will be set up as a subdivision of the Deep River area and will have Greensboro as headquarters.

Limestone Doubles Yields

Tests at the Experiment Station near Statesville showed that in a 3-year rotation of corn, wheat, cowpeas, and red clover, the use of limestone doubled crop yields.

SOILS OF DEEP RIVER

APPLING	Good for trucking, particularly melons; fair for tobacco.
ALAMANCA	Not very productive; better phases fair for tobacco, grains, truck.
CECIL	Considered leading all-round soil; adapted to cotton, grains, alfalfa, clover, berries, and fruit. Sandy phases good for truck and tobacco.
CONGAREE	Bottomland; excellent for corn, soybeans, and grasses.
DAVIDSON	Well adapted to alfalfa, clovers, grains, and grasses; valuable soil.
DURHAM	Tobacco land; good for truck and general crops; a good soil.
GEORGEVILLE	Good for clovers and small grains; fair for alfalfa.
HELENA	Better phases fair for tobacco and truck crops; fair for pasture.
IREDELL	Fair; adapted to grasses, legumes, and grains; fair pasture land.
MEADOW	In general, valuable; good for corn, meadow, and pasture.
MECKLENBURG	Suitable for alfalfa and clovers; excellent cotton land.
WILKES	Comparable to Helena.

Chatham and Herndon types are found in the area but only to small extent.

Farmers to Get Limestone

THE SOIL EROSION SERVICE is planning to distribute 3000 tons of limestone to cooperating farmers in the Deep River erosion control area, according to A. H. Veazey, agronomist.

"THE USE OF LIME is essential to modern farming," Mr. Veazey stated. Lime not only supplies plantfood but it brings about changes that cause the soil to work better. Also lime corrects the acid condition of the soil, making possible better success of crops, especially legumes. Besides, it causes plantfood already present to become more readily available, resulting in increased returns from application of fertilizers."

To Grow Tree Seedlings

THE FORESTRY DEPARTMENT of the Soil Erosion Service is laying plans for planting 500,000 tree seedlings on cooperating farms. Loblolly pine, faster growing and of equal value to the local short-leaf pine, and black locust will make up the bulk of the trees. A limited number of other species will be available this season.

THESE TREES will be planted in the Deep River watershed on abandoned fields, steep slopes, and other lands from which the topsoil has been lost or is rapidly being washed away.

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE an adequate stock for future plantings of this nature, the department is making a collection of tree seeds to be turned over to nurseries. Seeds of many different native species are included in the collection.

Heavy Rains Test Work

THE HEAVIEST 36-HOUR RAIN on record in the last 10 years failed the middle of September to damage a single terrace or checkdam structure installed by the Soil Erosion Service in the Deep River area, according to E. R. Raney, chief agricultural engineer of the Deep River erosion control project.

UP TO THE TIME of the record rains upward of 100 miles of terrace lines had been constructed under the direction of the erosion-control engineers as an initial step in the program to aid farmers in preventing washoff. In addition to the large number of broad-base terraces built, 831 terrace outlets were constructed and 448 gully fills made.

"TERRACES that we are building are for permanency," declared Mr. Raney. "We are using methods found most effective by many government soil erosion experiment stations, by the various state experiment stations, and from results obtained by farmers who have been successful in controlling the washing of their lands.

"THE FARMER WANTS a terrace that causes the least loss of cultivated land. Also he prefers one that can be crossed and cultivated with machinery. Terraces must be built with a continuous grade toward the outlet to prevent excess puddling of water.

"A WELL-BUILT TERRACE not only prevents washoff but also checks runoff, thus retaining more rainfall and providing the crops with a maximum amount of water."

To Coordinate Wildlife Program

LANDOWNERS OF THE AREA who are interested in game development and wildlife conservation are invited to confer with the specialist of the Soil Erosion Service who is in charge of this phase of the work. R. O. Stevens is the man. Mr. Stevens' duty will be to work in cooperation with landowners in the development and conservation of wildlife as a means of increasing the farm income and making the property more valuable.

RUTHLESS SPORTSMEN are responsible for the scarcity of desirable forms of wildlife in the Deep River valley, according to many farmers of the area.

BY TRAMPLING OVER and destroying farm property hunters have discouraged farmers from maintaining conditions suitable for game animals.

HOWEVER, SPORTSMEN are now beginning to realize that they must cooperate with the landowner before they have a right to expect ideal hunting conditions.

THE SOIL EROSION SERVICE plans to foster this cooperation between sportsmen and landowners.

Erosion Program Popular

UP TO THE MIDDLE of October 260 farmers owning upwards of 25,000 acres had signed agreements with the Soil Erosion Service in the Deep River valley to cooperate in setting up means of preventing erosion of their lands.

Runoff Affects Watertable

READINGS ARE BEING MADE and records kept at 6 stage-recorders, 15 rain-gauges, and numerous wells throughout the Deep River area in order to determine the effects of erosion-control work on the amount of runoff and the height of the watertable.

IF RUNOFF IN THE AREA is lessened by erosion control methods, water in wells of the section would be expected to rise. Engineers of the Soil Erosion Service expect to get valuable information from this work, which is being conducted in cooperation with the government's Geological Survey department.

Seed Distribution Underway

THOUSANDS OF POUNDS of seed for small grains, legumes, grass mixtures, and hay crops are being distributed every week to farmers cooperating with the Soil Erosion Service, according to A. H. Veazey, agronomist. These seeds are of erosion-preventing crops, and are distributed as part of the government's agreement to aid the farmer in setting up a permanent erosion-control and modified land-use program.

Fairs Carry Erosion Exhibits

SOIL EROSION EXHIBITS were featured attractions at the Mebane (6-County) and the Greensboro fairs held the latter half of September.

CREDIT FOR THESE EXHIBITS goes to enterprising vocational agricultural teachers. The knowledge and daily contacts of these men enabled them readily to grasp the significance of the erosion-control program.

Erosion Advisory Council Formed

THE STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL of the Soil Erosion Service adopted the following resolution on October 4 at its initial meeting in High Point:

"INASMUCH AS the original plan for erosion-control work in this section included the Deep River watershed down to and including Ramseur, we wish to go on record favoring the extension of the present project area from its south boundary just below Randleman to include all the original area."


DEAN I. O. SCHAUB, director of the extension department of State College, John W. Clark, Franklinville manufacturer, Dr. C. F. Korstian, head of the forestry school of Duke University, Dr. R. Y. Winters, director of the state experiment stations, and J. S. Holmes, state forester, compose the advisory board of the North Carolina area.

FARMERS' QUESTION BOX

Can a landowner obtain from the Soil Erosion Service any particular erosion-control work in the event he is not willing to cooperate to the extent of the full program?

Since the Soil Erosion movement is based on the establishment of complete and permanent erosion control involving a modified land-use program, the farmer is required to cooperate to the full extent before federal aid is rendered.

Worth Thinking About



A FAMOUS CORRESPONDENT and world traveler asks: "Is the United States doomed to become a land of Gobi deserts, Rivers of Sorrow, drought, famine, and pestilence, like China?"

"RECENTLY I WAS in Tientsin. Outside my windows a thick, yellow fog drifted across the city. I was obliged at midday

to turn on the lights to see what I was doing.

"I DID NOT NEED to ask questions. I had been to China before. This was just another dust storm, blowing in from the Gobi desert, hundreds of miles to the west.

"ONCE ALL CHINA, including the Gobi, was a fertile, tree-grown country. Paying no attention to what happened to forests and fields, however, has done its work. The answer is ruinous erosion, disastrous floods, calamitous famines, scourges, starvation, and death."

SAID A CHINESE SCHOLAR educated in the United States: "These droughts, dust storms, and floods are just what you Americans are in for unless you wake up in time. I can understand them in China because the damage was done before my people knew what deforestation and bad farming could do to a country, but I can not understand a country like the United States allowing such a thing to happen."

"Lively Gang" — Collier's

"The whole story of erosion points to a consummation which must be avoided. Merely because our forefathers betrayed their trust to us by ruining millions of acres of good farm land for the sake of a temporary gain is no reason why we should gold-brick our posterity by handing our descendants a country that they can't live on. And if the energy and enthusiasm with which the Soil Erosion Service has tackled its job can be made to count for all it should, we are not going to do anything like that.

"The men of the Soil Erosion Service constitute about the liveliest gang that I have ever met."

—OWEN P. WHITE, in
Collier's of September 29.

